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Agenda item 73 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/496 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

60/220. Humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for El Salvador and Guatemala

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/1 B of 5 October 1998, 53/1 C of 2 November 1998, 54/96 E of 15 December 1999, 58/117 of 17 December 2003, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, and 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004,

Reiterating the need for the United Nations system to respond to requests for assistance by Member States and for humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality,

Deeply regretting the loss of human lives and the scores of victims in the wake of Tropical Storm Stan, aggravated by other natural events, in El Salvador and Guatemala, from 3 to 12 October 2005,

Conscious of the huge material losses sustained to crops, homes, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Governments of El Salvador and Guatemala to protect the lives of their nationals and rapidly to assist the affected population, in particular the indigenous communities,

Conscious that the Central American countries are vulnerable to cyclical weather patterns and prone to natural hazards based on their geographical location and features, which impose additional challenges on their ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the enormous effort that will be required to rebuild the affected areas and to alleviate the grave situation wreaked by these natural hazards,

Aware that the work of reconstruction requires the fullest coordinated support as well as the unwavering solidarity of the international community,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Governments and the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the international community that have offered their support to the rescue efforts and emergency assistance for the affected population;

3. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to provide speedy support to the relief, rehabilitation and assistance effort for the affected countries;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to provide assistance in response to the flash appeal for Guatemala and to the joint United Nations agency appeal in El Salvador;

5. *Acknowledges* the efforts and progress made by El Salvador and Guatemala in strengthening their disaster-preparedness capacity, emphasizes the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction, and encourages the international community to cooperate with the Governments of El Salvador and Guatemala towards this end;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to assist El Salvador and Guatemala, whenever possible, through continued effective humanitarian, technical and financial assistance that contributes to overcoming the emergency and achieving the rehabilitation and recovery of the economy and the affected population in the short, medium and long term, in conformity with the priorities identified at the national level;

7. *Requests* the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to increase their support and assistance for strengthening the disaster-preparedness capacity of the countries concerned;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2006, on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries.

68th plenary meeting
22 December 2005